Archie
65TH ANNIVERSARY
178
US $2.25
CAN $2.65
SEGA
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SONIC
HEDGEHOG
VS. TAILS!
FRIENDS NO MORE

HOUSE OF CARDS

Part 1 of 2

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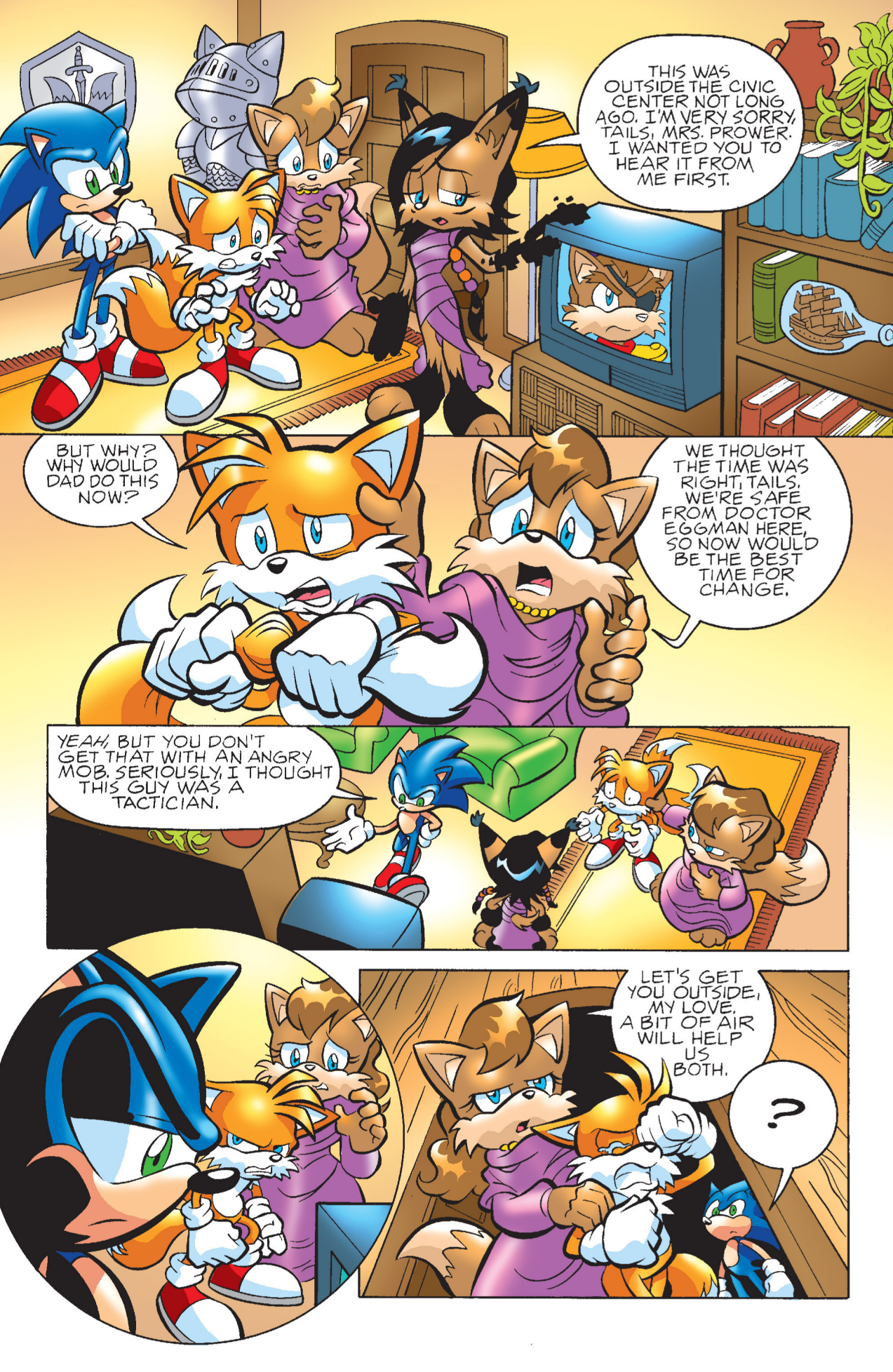
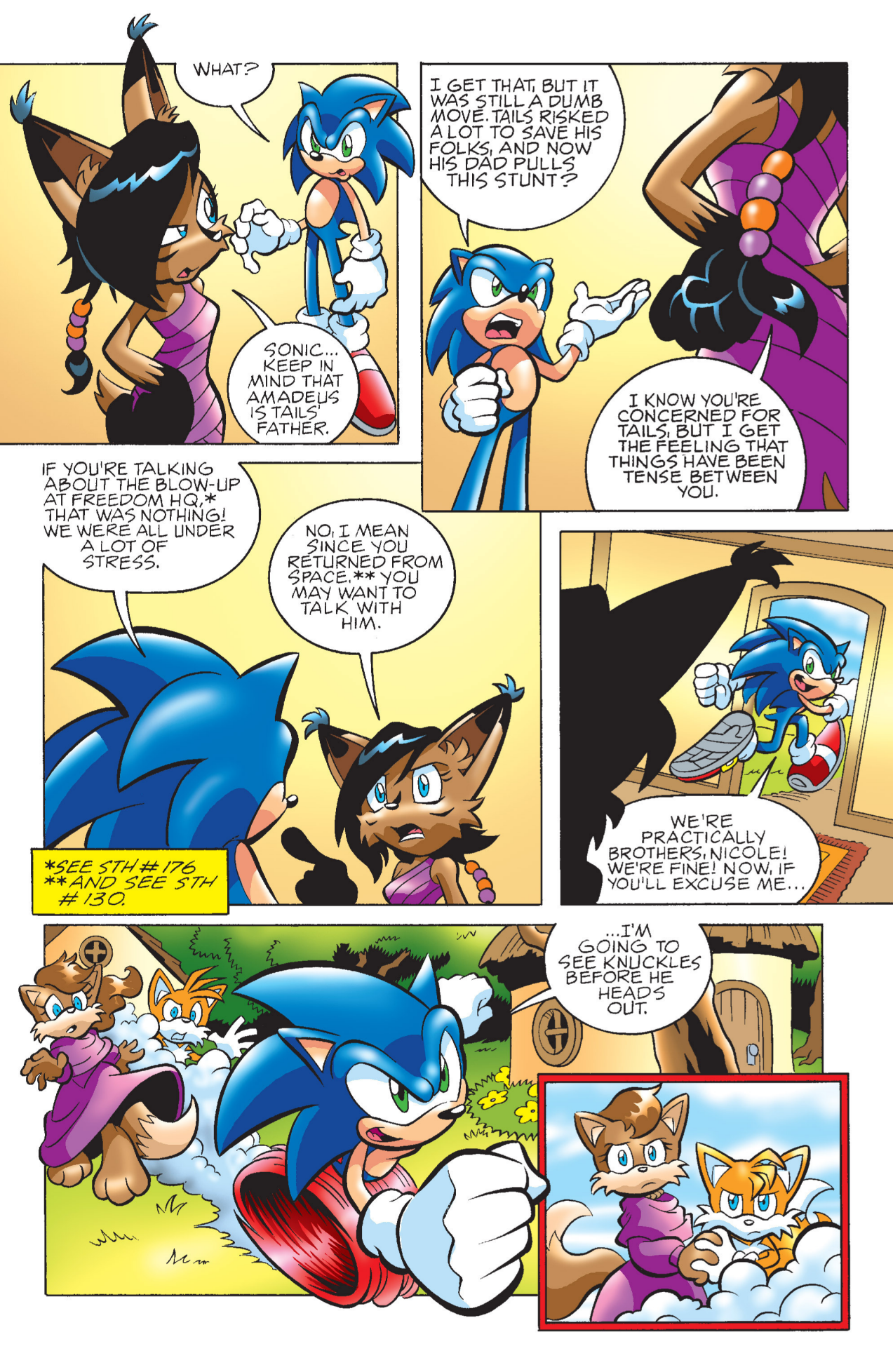
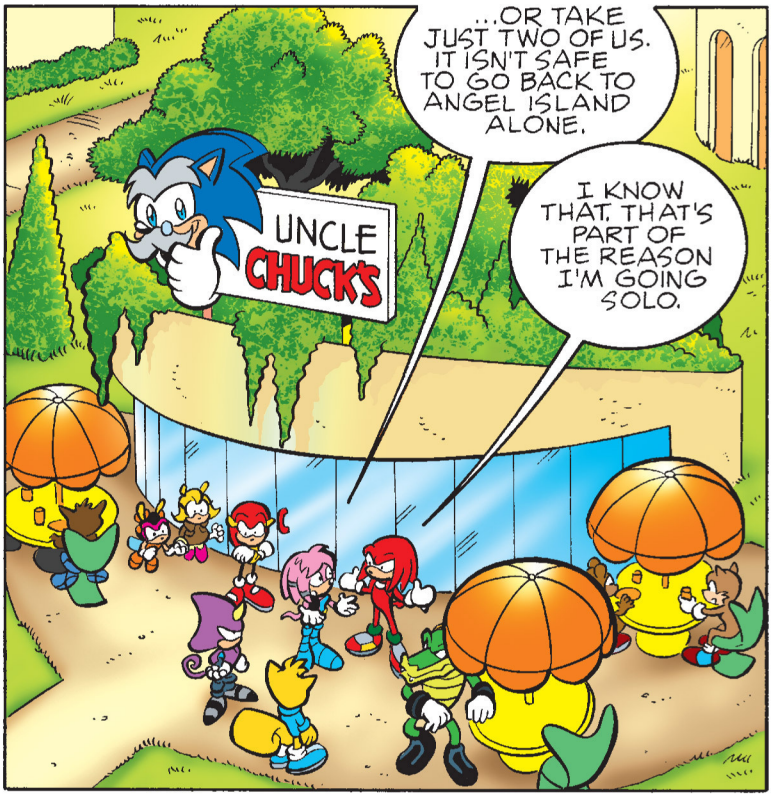
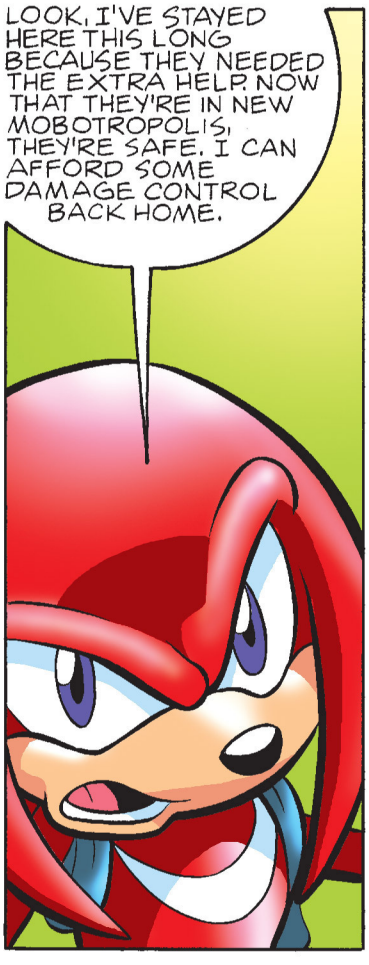
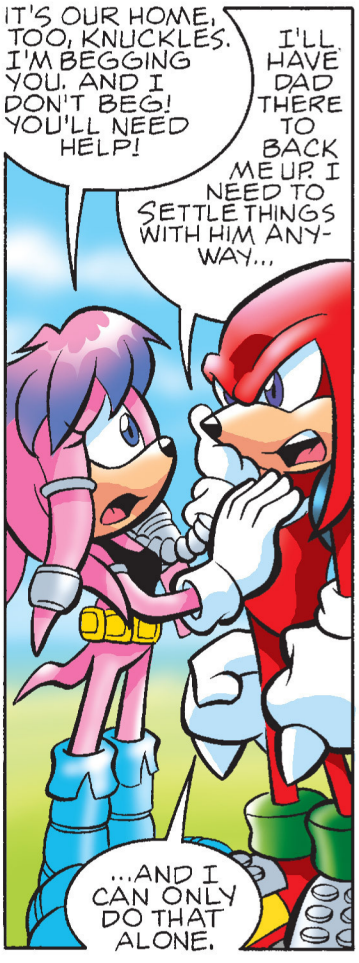

THIS WAS OUTSIDE THE CIVIC CENTER NOT LONG AGO. I'M VERY SORRY, TAILS, MRS. PROWER. I WANTED YOU TO HEAR IT FROM ME FIRST.
BUT WHY? WHY WOULD DAD DO THIS NOW?
WE THOUGHT THE TIME WAS RIGHT, TAILS. WE'RE SAFE FROM DOCTOR EGGMAN HERE, SO NOW WOULD BE THE BEST TIME FOR CHANGE.
YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T GET THAT WITH AN ANGRY MOB. SERIOUSLY, I THOUGHT THIS GUY WAS A TACTICIAN.
LET'S GET YOU OUTSIDE, MY LOVE. A BIT OF AIR WILL HELP US BOTH.
?

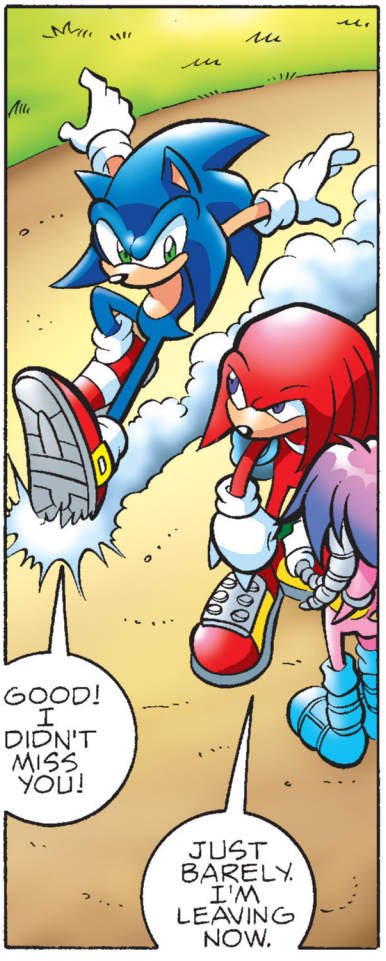

WHAT?
SONIC... KEEP IN MIND THAT AMADEUS IS TAILS' FATHER.
I GET THAT, BUT IT WAS STILL A DUMB MOVE. TAILS RISKED A LOT TO SAVE HIS FOLKS, AND NOW HIS DAD PULLS THIS STUNT?
I KNOW YOU'RE CONCERNED FOR TAILS, BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN TENSE BETWEEN YOU.
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BLOW-UP AT FREEDOM HQ,* THAT WAS NOTHING! WE WERE ALL UNDER A LOT OF STRESS.
NO, I MEAN SINCE YOU RETURNED FROM SPACE.** YOU MAY WANT TO TALK WITH HIM.
*SEE STH #176
**AND SEE STH #130.
WE'RE PRACTICALLY BROTHERS, NICOLE! WE'RE FINE! NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
...I'M GOING TO SEE KNUCKLES BEFORE HE HEADS OUT.

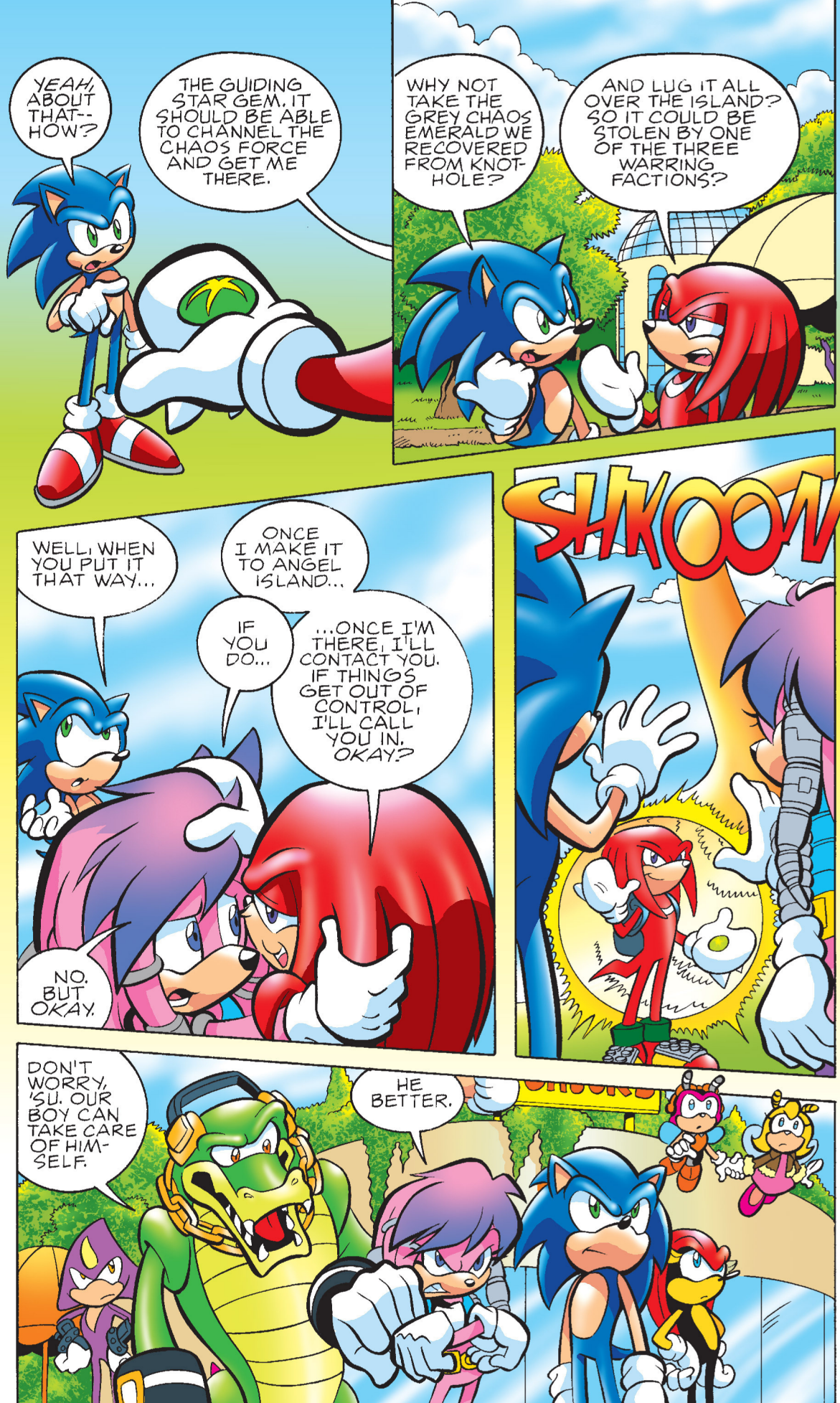

...OR TAKE JUST TWO OF US. IT ISN'T SAFE TO GO BACK TO ANGEL ISLAND ALONE.
I KNOW THAT. THAT'S PART OF THE REASON I'M GOING SOLO.
UNCLE CHUCK'S

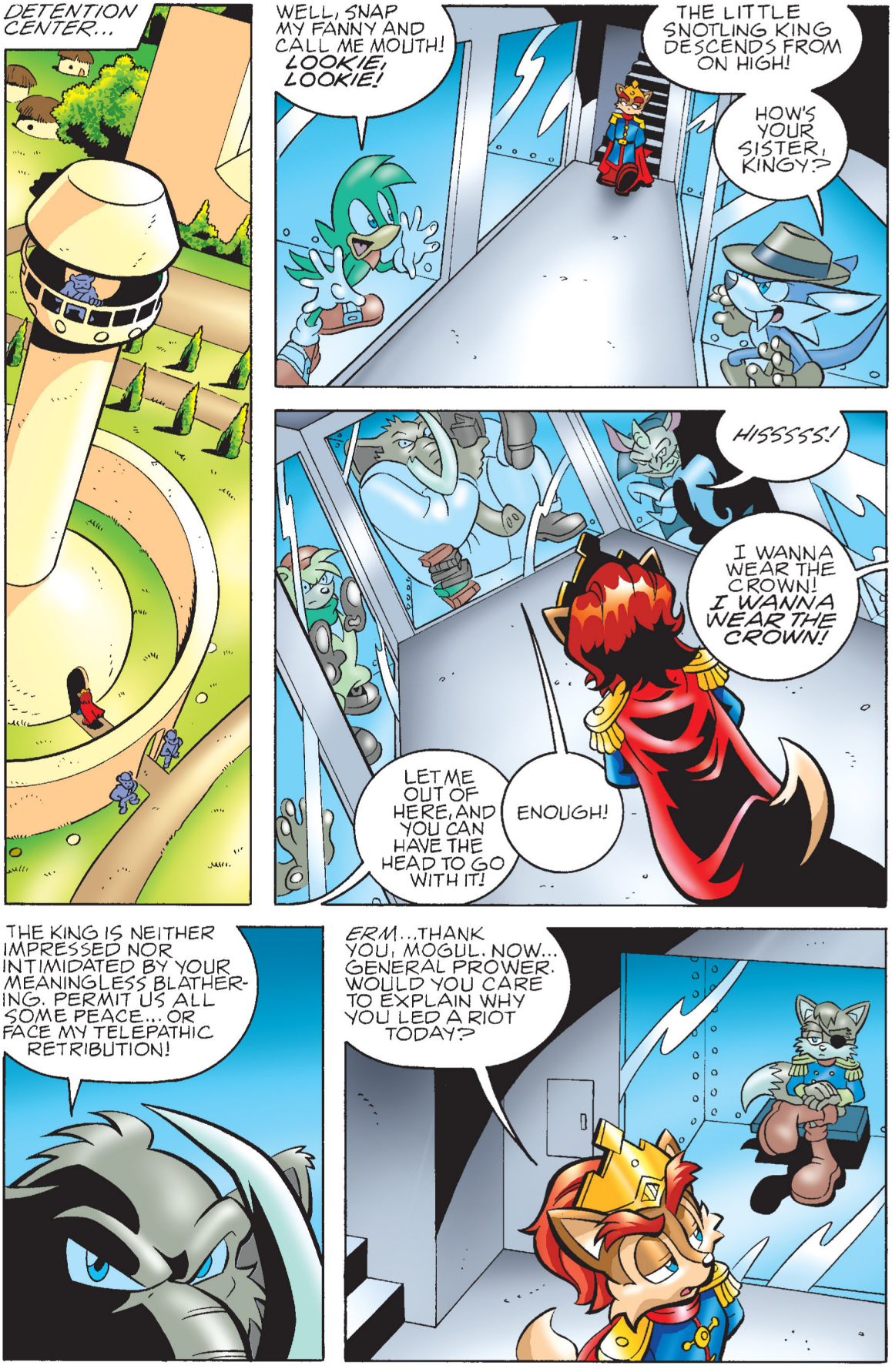
RRGH! VECTOR! YOU TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!
I GOTTA ADMIT SHE'S GOT A POINT. THAT, AND YOU MADE NO SENSE JUST NOW.

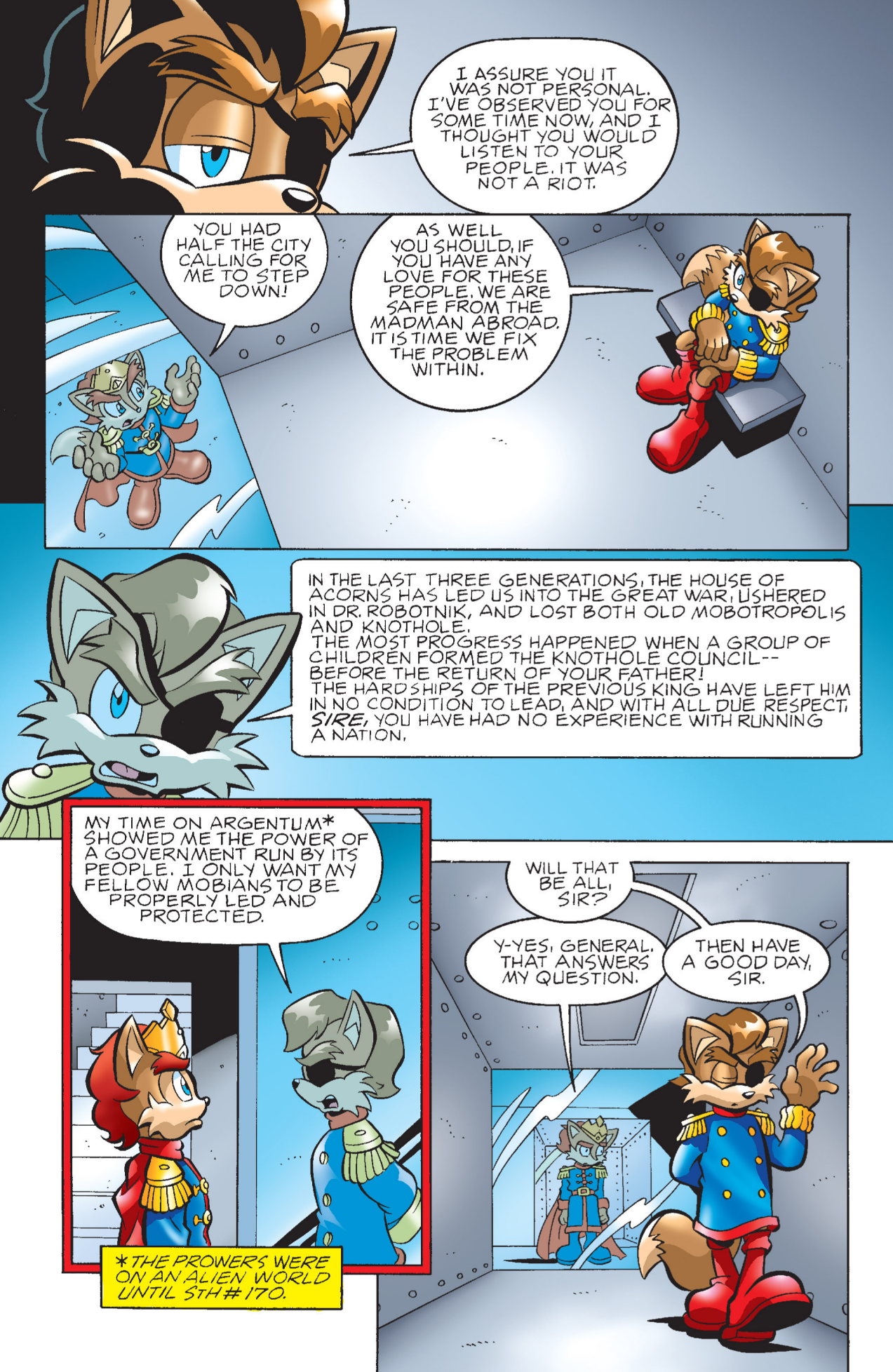

LOOK, I'VE STAYED HERE THIS LONG BECAUSE THEY NEEDED THE EXTRA HELP. NOW THAT THEY'RE IN NEW MOBOTROPOLIS, THEY'RE SAFE. I CAN AFFORD SOME DAMAGE CONTROL BACK HOME.

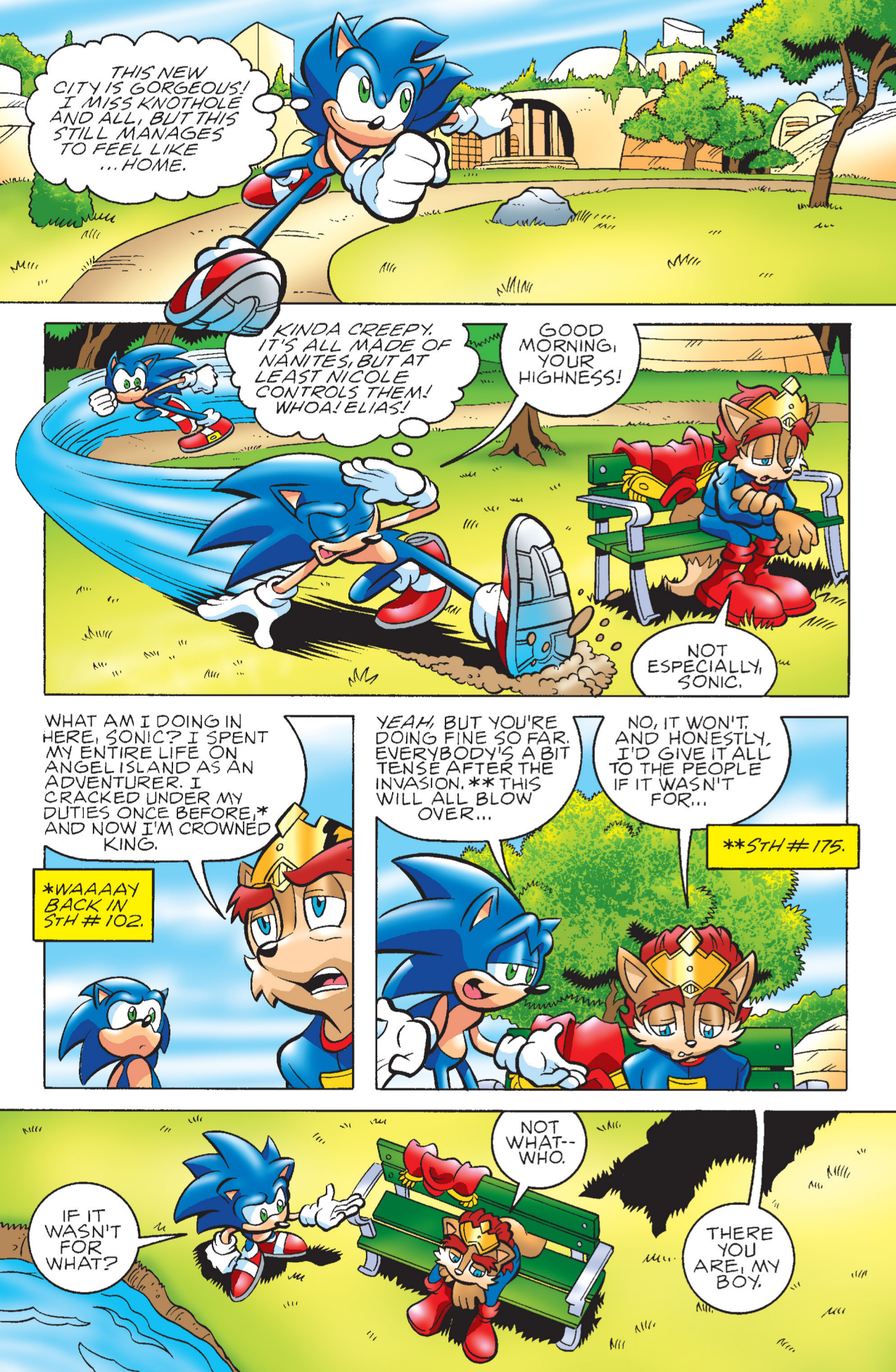

IT'S OUR HOME, TOO, KNUCKLES. I'M BEGGING YOU. AND I DON'T BEG! YOU'LL NEED HELP!
I'LL HAVE DAD THERE TO BACK ME UP. I NEED TO SETTLE THINGS WITH HIM ANY-WAY...
...AND I CAN ONLY DO THAT ALONE.


GOOD! I DIDN'T MISS YOU!
JUST BARELY. I'M LEAVING NOW.

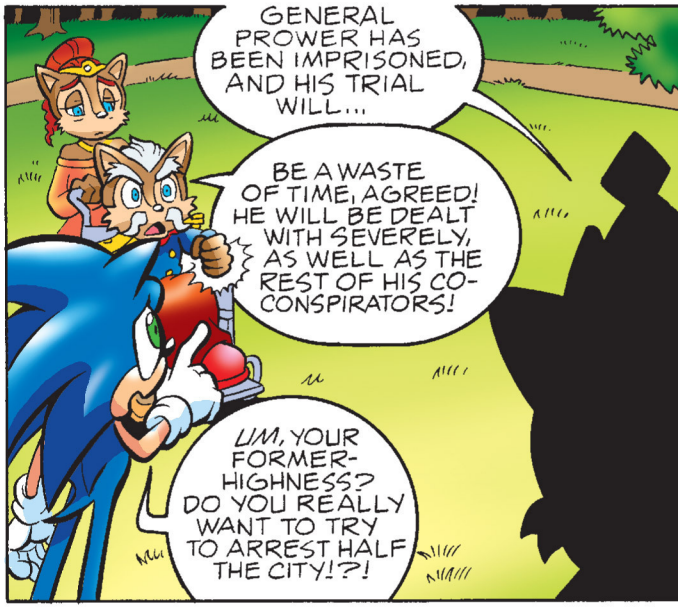

YEAH, ABOUT THAT-- HOW?
THE GUIDING STAR GEM. IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHANNEL THE CHAOS FORCE AND GET ME THERE.
WHY NOT TAKE THE GREY CHAOS EMERALD WE RECOVERED FROM KNOT-HOLE?
AND LUG IT ALL OVER THE ISLAND? SO IT COULD BE STOLEN BY ONE OF THE THREE WARRING FACTIONS?
WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
ONCE I MAKE IT TO ANGEL ISLAND...
IF YOU DO...
...ONCE I'M THERE, I'LL CONTACT YOU. IF THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL, I'LL CALL YOU IN. OKAY?
NO. BUT OKAY.
SHKOOM
DON'T WORRY, 'SU. OUR BOY CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM-SELF.
HE BETTER.

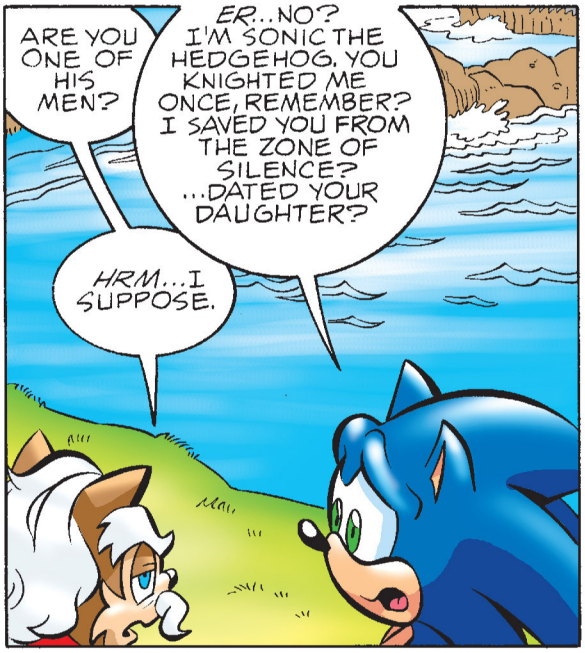

DETENTION CENTER...
WELL, SNAP MY FANNY AND CALL ME MOUTH! LOOKIE, LOOKIE!
THE LITTLE SNOTLING KING DESCENDS FROM ON HIGH!
HOW'S YOUR SISTER, KINGY?
HISSSSS!
I WANNA WEAR THE CROWN! I WANNA WEAR THE CROWN!
ENOUGH!
LET ME OUT OF HERE, AND YOU CAN HAVE THE HEAD TO GO WITH IT!
THE KING IS NEITHER IMPRESSED NOR INTIMIDATED BY YOUR MEANINGLESS BLATHERING. PERMIT US ALL SOME PEACE... OR FACE MY TELEPATHIC RETRIBUTION!
ERM...THANK YOU, MOGUL. NOW... GENERAL PROWER. WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU LED A RIOT TODAY?


I ASSURE YOU IT WAS NOT PERSONAL. I'VE OBSERVED YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW, AND I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LISTEN TO YOUR PEOPLE. IT WAS NOT A RIOT.
YOU HAD HALF THE CITY CALLING FOR ME TO STEP DOWN!
AS WELL YOU SHOULD, IF YOU HAVE ANY LOVE FOR THESE PEOPLE. WE ARE SAFE FROM THE MADMAN ABROAD. IT IS TIME WE FIX THE PROBLEM WITHIN.
IN THE LAST THREE GENERATIONS, THE HOUSE OF ACORNS HAS LED US INTO THE GREAT WAR, USHERED IN DR. ROBOTNIK, AND LOST BOTH OLD MOBOTROPOLIS AND KNOTHOLE.
THE MOST PROGRESS HAPPENED WHEN A GROUP OF CHILDREN FORMED THE KNOTHOLE COUNCIL-- BEFORE THE RETURN OF YOUR FATHER!
THE HARDSHIPS OF THE PREVIOUS KING HAVE LEFT HIM IN NO CONDITION TO LEAD, AND WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIRE, YOU HAVE HAD NO EXPERIENCE WITH RUNNING A NATION.
MY TIME ON ARGENTUM* SHOWED ME THE POWER OF A GOVERNMENT RUN BY ITS PEOPLE. I ONLY WANT MY FELLOW MOBIANS TO BE PROPERLY LED AND PROTECTED.
*THE PROWERS WERE ON AN ALIEN WORLD UNTIL STH #170.
WILL THAT BE ALL, SIR?
Y-YES, GENERAL. THAT ANSWERS MY QUESTION.
THEN HAVE A GOOD DAY, SIR.

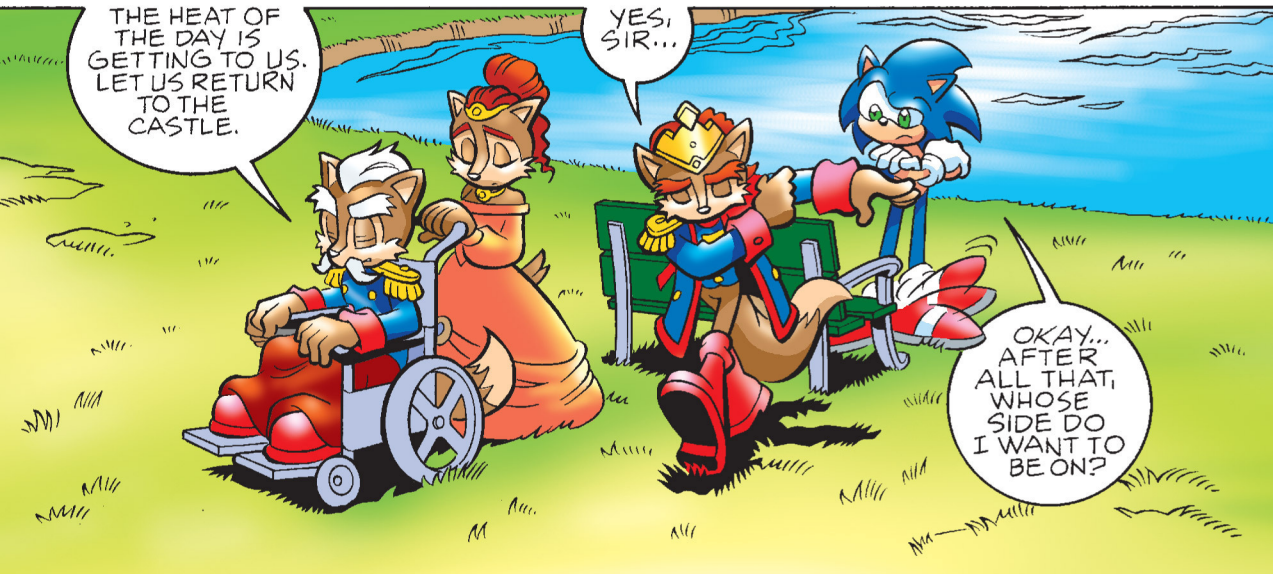

THIS NEW CITY IS GORGEOUS! I MISS KNOTHOLE AND ALL, BUT THIS STILL MANAGES TO FEEL LIKE ...HOME.
KINDA CREEPY. IT'S ALL MADE OF NANITES, BUT AT LEAST NICOLE CONTROLS THEM! WHOA! ELIAS!
GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS!
NOT ESPECIALLY, SONIC.
WHAT AM I DOING IN HERE, SONIC? I SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE ON ANGEL ISLAND AS AN ADVENTURER. I CRACKED UNDER MY DUTIES ONCE BEFORE,* AND NOW I'M CROWNED KING.
*WAAAAY BACK IN STH #102.
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE DOING FINE SO FAR. EVERYBODY'S A BIT TENSE AFTER THE INVASION.** THIS WILL ALL BLOW OVER...
NO, IT WON'T, AND HONESTLY, I'D GIVE IT ALL TO THE PEOPLE IF IT WASN'T FOR...
**STH #175.
IF IT WASN'T FOR WHAT?
NOT WHAT-- WHO.
THERE YOU ARE, MY BOY.

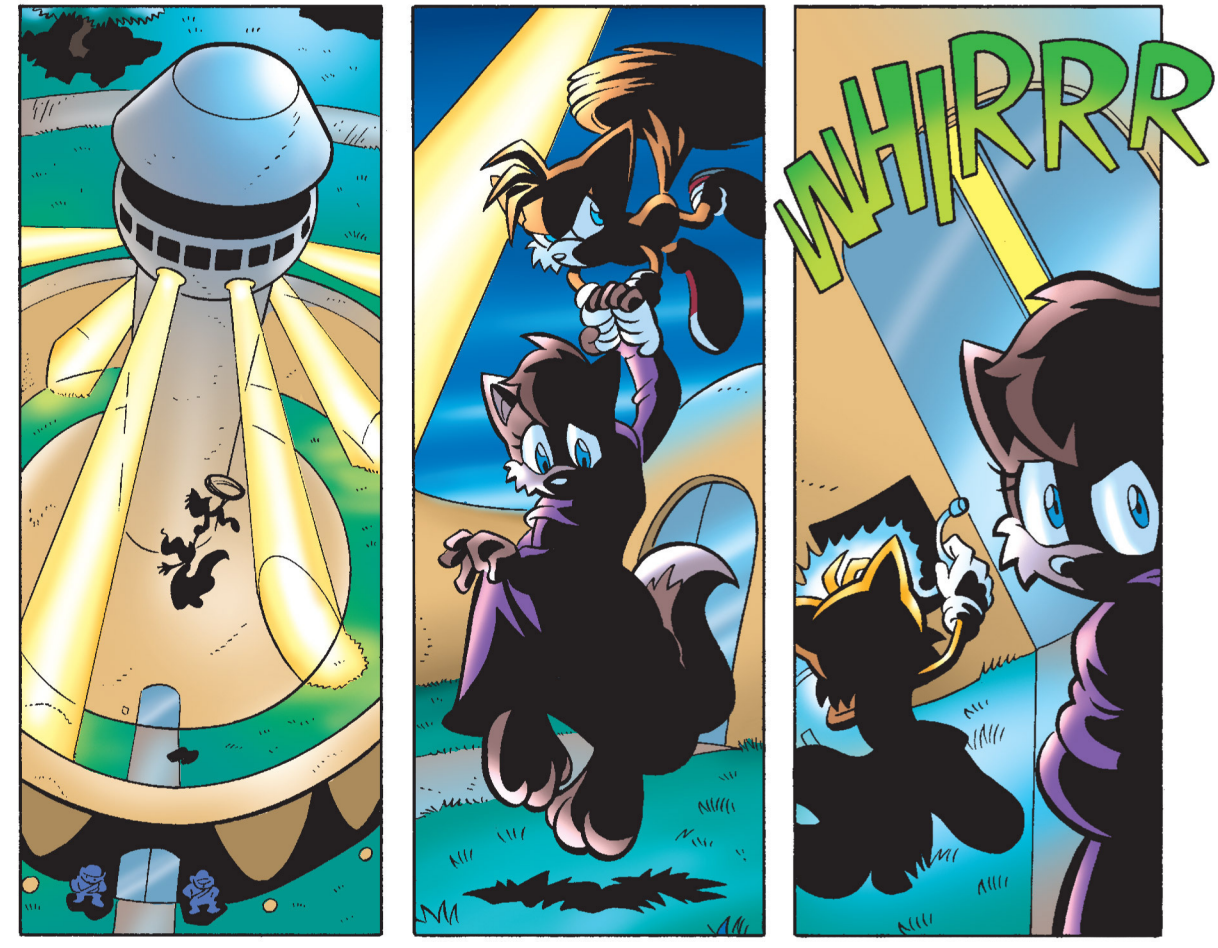
WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS, ELIAS.
DO WE, FATHER?
OH, YES. LIKE HOW YOU'RE TO PUNISH THE TRAITORS AND THEIR RING-LEADER!


GENERAL PROWER HAS BEEN IMPRISONED, AND HIS TRIAL WILL...
BE A WASTE OF TIME, AGREED! HE WILL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY, AS WELL AS THE REST OF HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS!
UM, YOUR FORMER-HIGHNESS? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TRY TO ARREST HALF THE CITY!?!

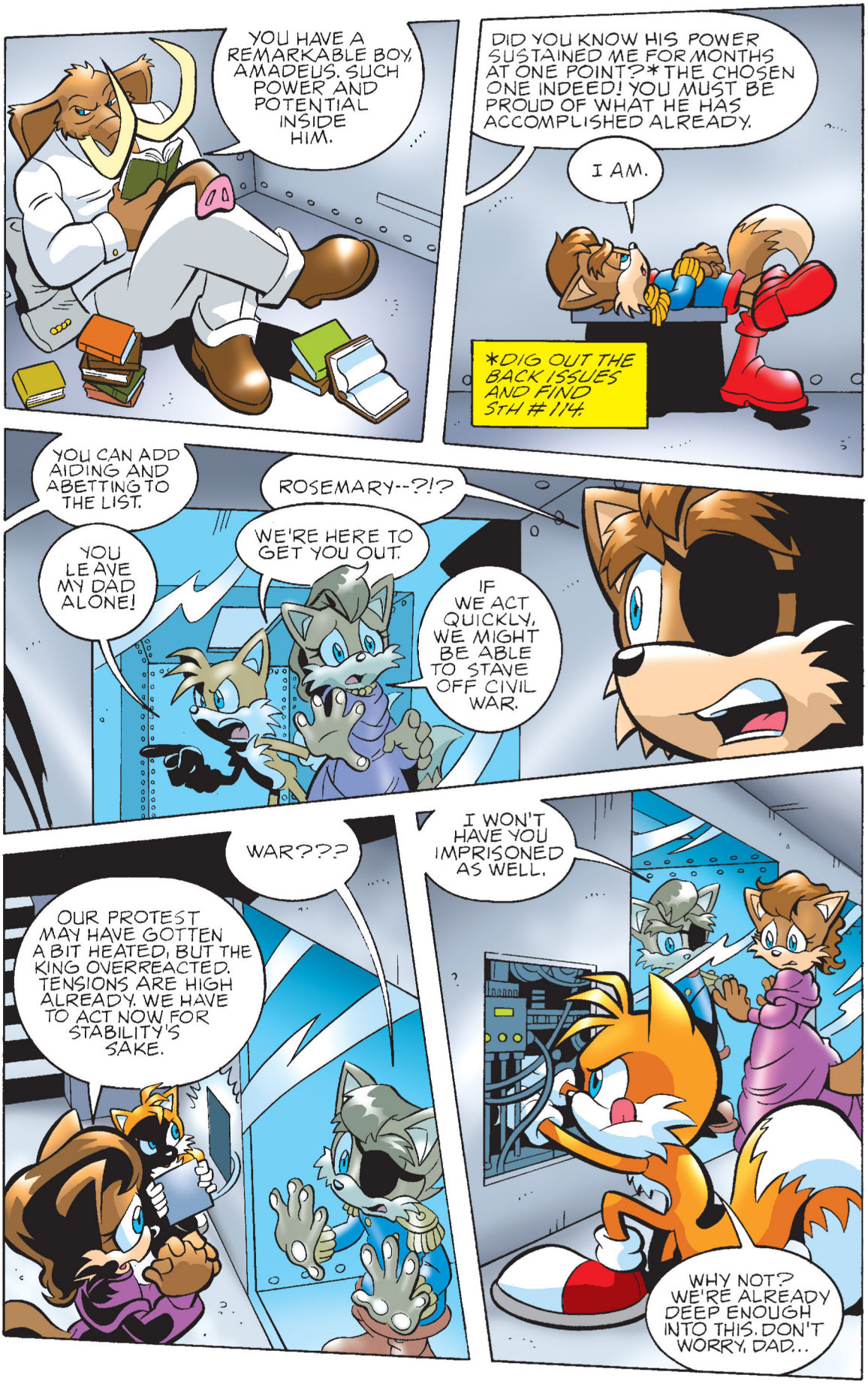

ARE YOU ONE OF HIS MEN?
ER...NO? I'M SONIC THE HEDGEHOG. YOU KNIGHTED ME ONCE, REMEMBER? I SAVED YOU FROM THE ZONE OF SILENCE? ...DATED YOUR DAUGHTER?
HRM...I SUPPOSE.

SUPPOSE? SUPPOSE WHAT?
WE MAY HAVE REACTED TOO STRONGLY, FATHER. AMADEUS IS SPEAKING FOR THE PEOPLE...
AND THEY MAY SPEAK ALL THEY WANT! THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WE HAVE RULED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND WE'LL DO SO FOR HUNDREDS MORE!

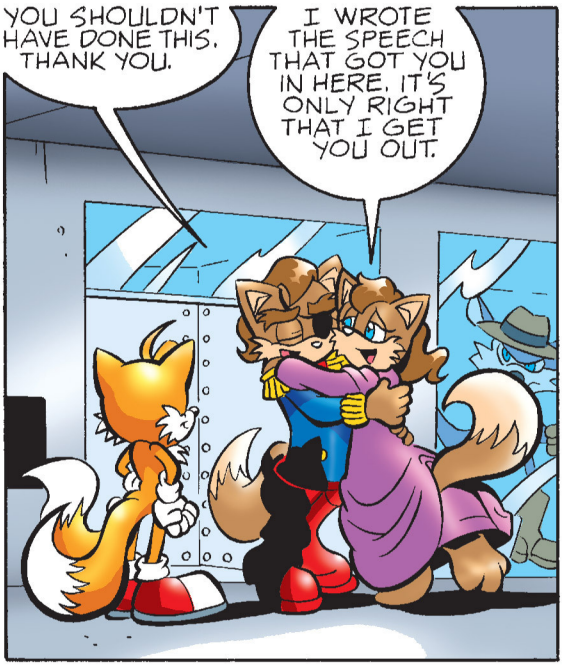

THE HEAT OF THE DAY IS GETTING TO US. LET US RETURN TO THE CASTLE.
YES, SIR...
OKAY... AFTER ALL THAT, WHOSE SIDE DO I WANT TO BE ON?

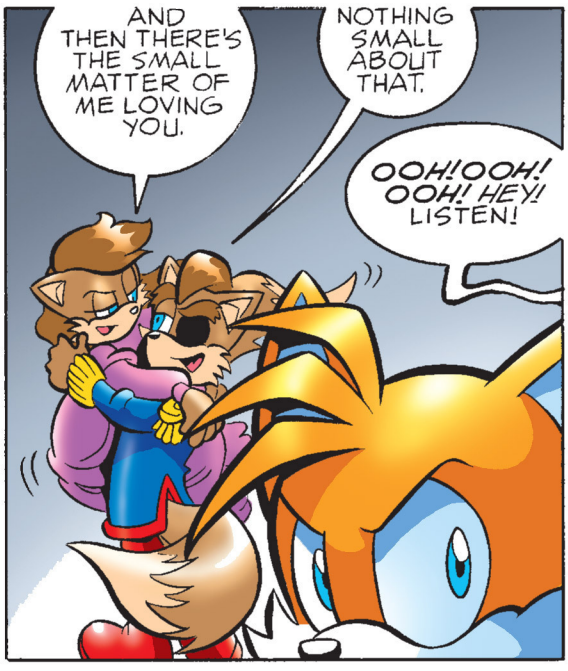

WHIRRR

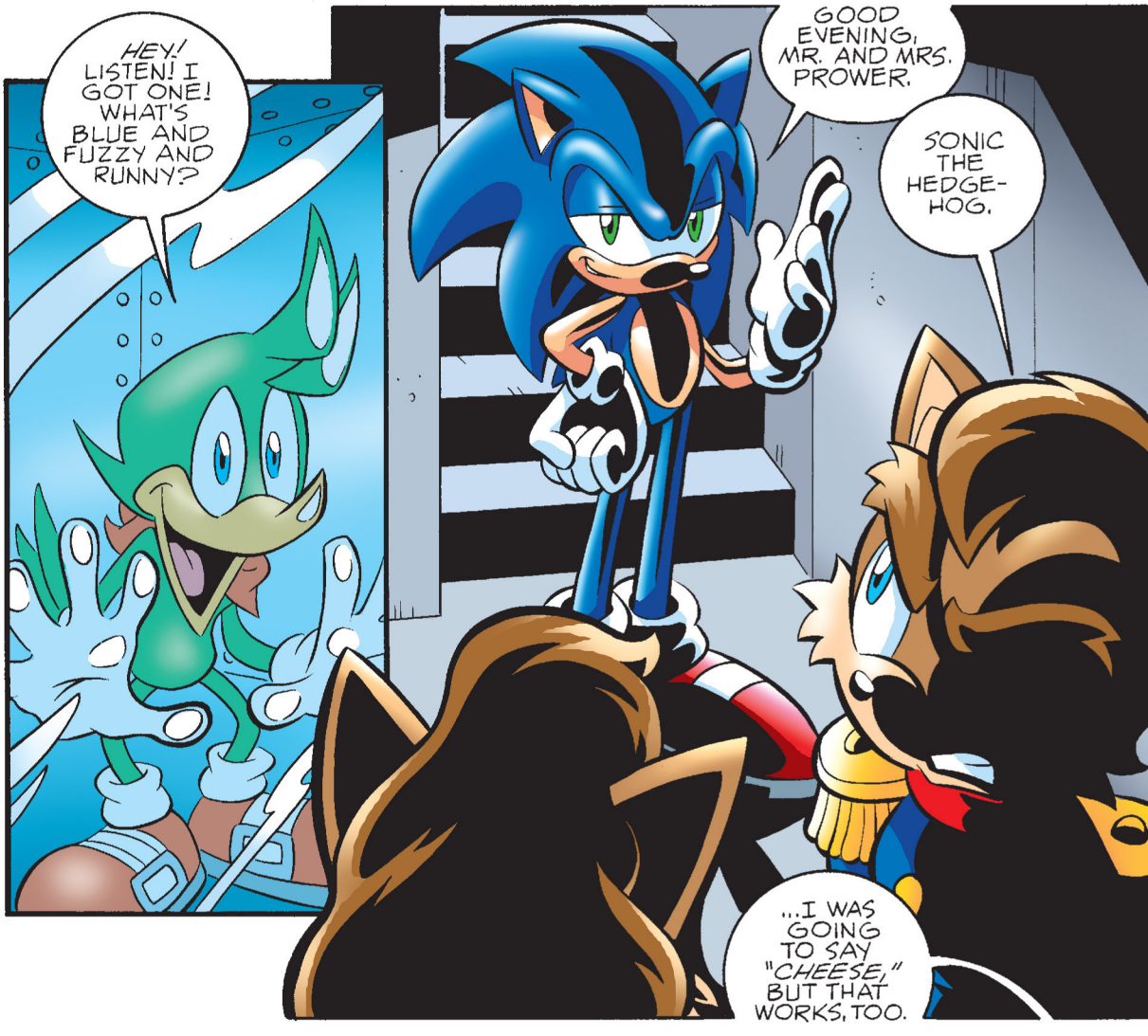
I RECOMMEND NOT BREAKING INTO THIS FACILITY. OTHERWISE I WILL HAVE TO--
YOU ?!?
BLIP


YOU HAVE A REMARKABLE BOY, AMADEUS. SUCH POWER AND POTENTIAL INSIDE HIM.
DID YOU KNOW HIS POWER SUSTAINED ME FOR MONTHS AT ONE POINT?* THE CHOSEN ONE INDEED! YOU MUST BE PROUD OF WHAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY.
I AM.
*DIG OUT THE BACK ISSUES AND FIND STH #114.
YOU CAN ADD AIDING AND ABETTING TO THE LIST.
ROSEMARY--?!?
WE'RE HERE TO GET YOU OUT.
YOU LEAVE MY DAD ALONE!
IF WE ACT QUICKLY, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STAVE OFF CIVIL WAR.
WAR???
OUR PROTEST MAY HAVE GOTTEN A BIT HEATED, BUT THE KING OVERREACTED. TENSIONS ARE HIGH ALREADY. WE HAVE TO ACT NOW FOR STABILITY'S SAKE.
I WON'T HAVE YOU IMPRISONED AS WELL.
WHY NOT? WE'RE ALREADY DEEP ENOUGH INTO THIS. DON'T WORRY, DAD...

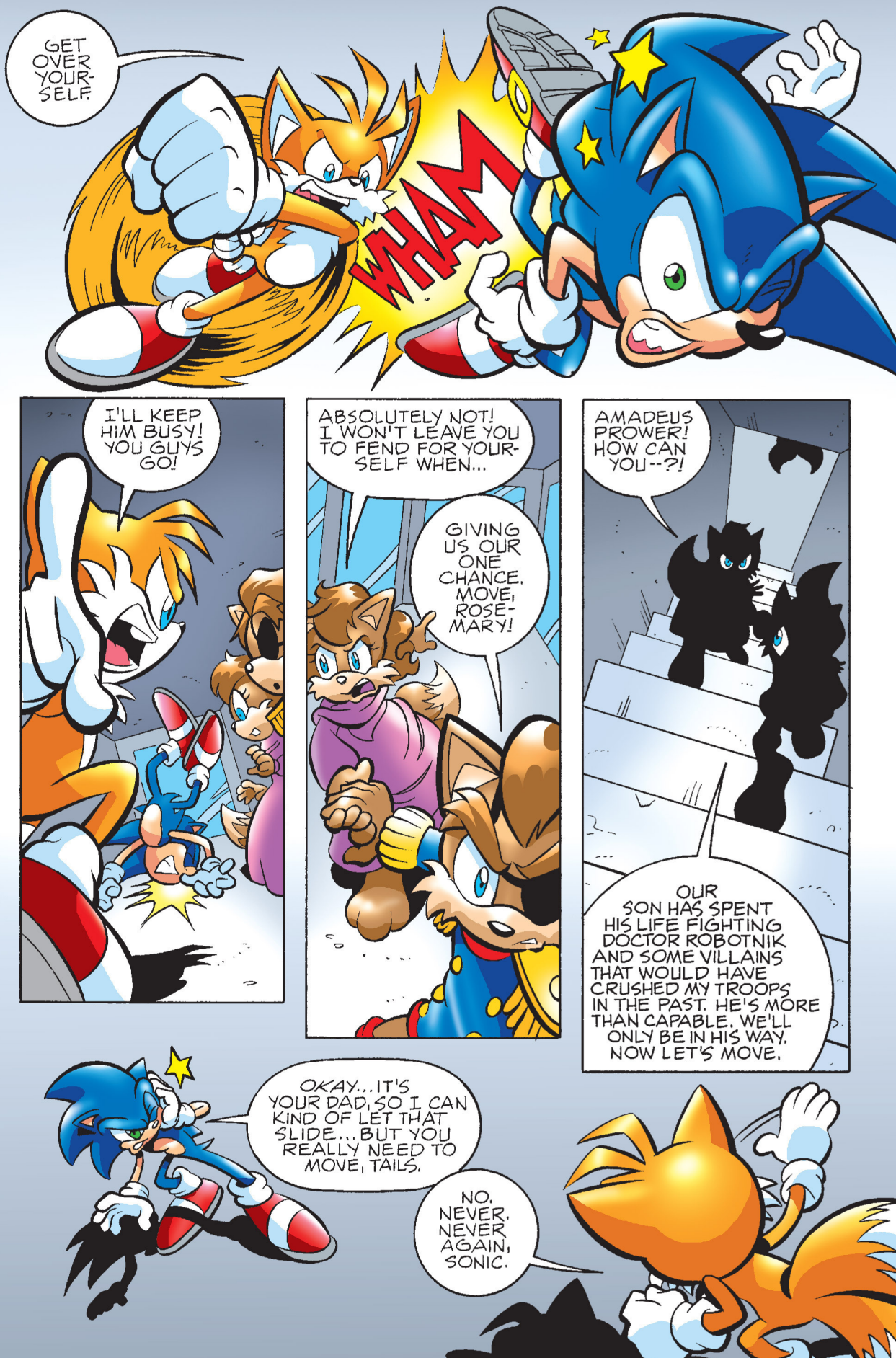
"...I'LL PROTECT US."
SONIC!
GAH!
LOOK, I KNOW YOU CAN BE ANYWHERE IN THE CITY, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE KNOCK NEXT TIME?
I'M SORRY, SONIC! I'M STILL ADJUSTING TO A CORPOREAL LIFE.
YAWN!
IT'S COOL! WHAT'S UP? BESIDES ME, NOW.
THERE'S BEEN A BREACH AT THE DETENTION CENTER. THEY'RE TRYING TO BREAK OUT GENERAL PROWER.
WAIT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO'S DOING IT!

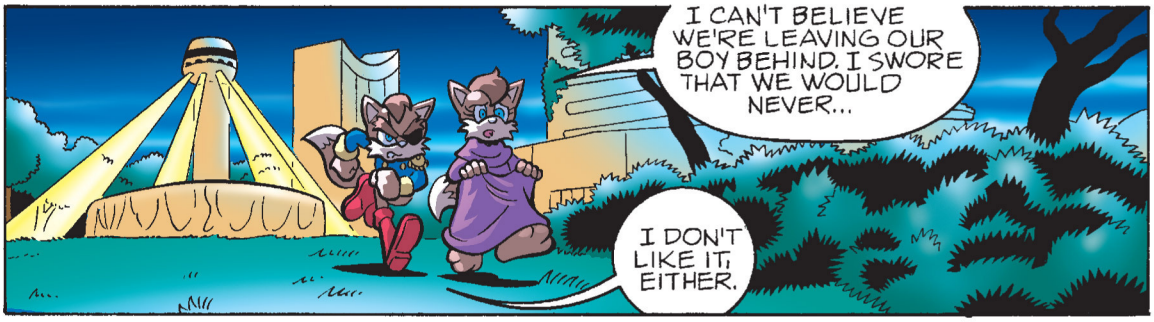

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS. THANK YOU.
I WROTE THE SPEECH THAT GOT YOU IN HERE. IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I GET YOU OUT.

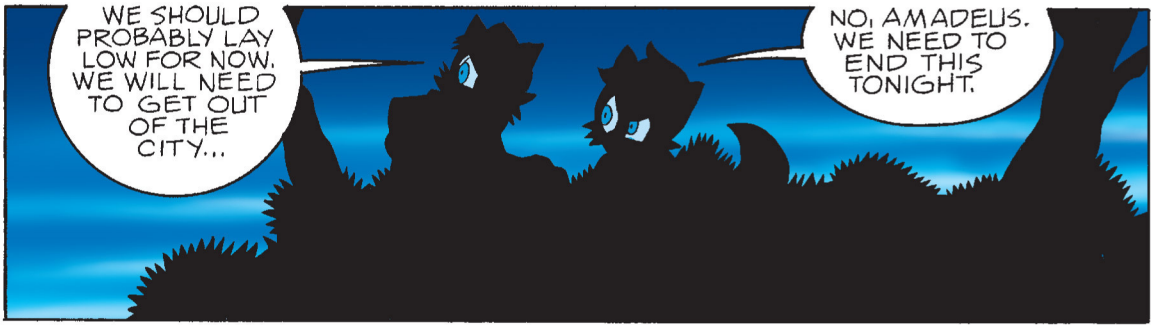

AND THEN THERE'S THE SMALL MATTER OF ME LOVING YOU.
NOTHING SMALL ABOUT THAT.
OOH! OOH! OOH! HEY! LISTEN!

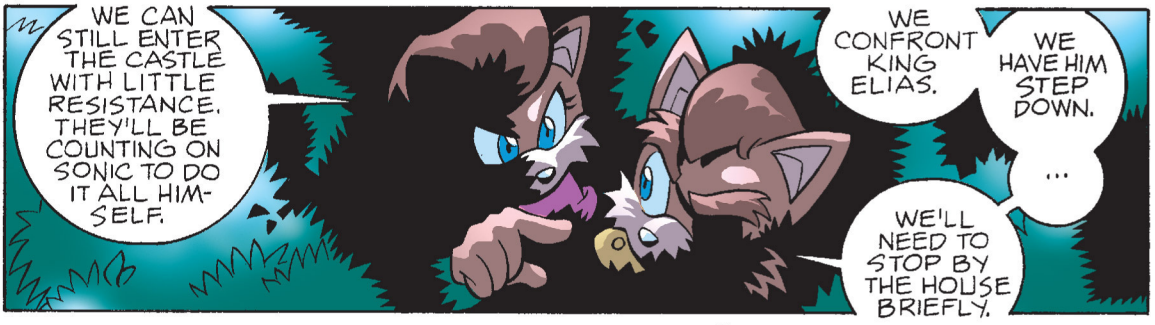

HEY! LISTEN! I GOT ONE! WHAT'S BLUE AND FUZZY AND RUNNY?
GOOD EVENING, MR. AND MRS. PROWER.
SONIC THE HEDGE-HOG.
...I WAS GOING TO SAY "CHEESE," BUT THAT WORKS, TOO.

YOU WON'T HAVE HIM AGAIN! HE'S DONE NOTHING WRONG.
HE STARTED A RIOT AGAINST THE KING, MA'AM. THAT KINDA COUNTS AS TREASON...!
AND THE PEOPLE SIDE WITH HIM. DOESN'T THAT TELL YOU SOMETHING?
IT TELLS ME THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE AGREE WITH HIM, BUT IT'S THE WRONG WAY TO GO ABOUT IT. AND BREAKING HIM OUT OF JAIL ISN'T GOING TO HELP.
THEN WHAT ABOUT TAILS? CAN YOU STAND HIM KNOWING YOU HELPED KEEP HIS FATHER IN JAIL?
I KNOW YOU'RE HIS REAL FAMILY, BUT HE GREW UP WITH ME. *HECK*, THE KID WORSHIPS ME. HE'LL GET OVER IT.

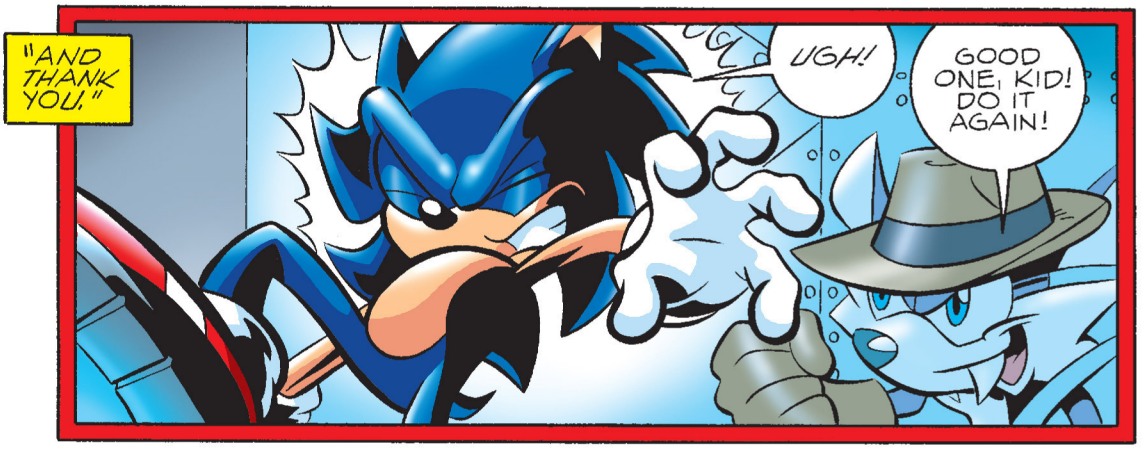

GET OVER YOURSELF.
WHAM
I'LL KEEP HIM BUSY! YOU GUYS GO!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! I WON'T LEAVE YOU TO FEND FOR YOURSELF WHEN...
GIVING US OUR ONE CHANCE. MOVE, ROSEMARY!
AMADEUS PROWER! HOW CAN YOU--?!
OUR SON HAS SPENT HIS LIFE FIGHTING DOCTOR ROBOTNIK AND SOME VILLAINS THAT WOULD HAVE CRUSHED MY TROOPS IN THE PAST. HE'S MORE THAN CAPABLE. WE'LL ONLY BE IN HIS WAY. NOW LET'S MOVE.
OKAY... IT'S YOUR DAD, SO I CAN KIND OF LET THAT SLIDE... BUT YOU REALLY NEED TO MOVE, TAILS.
NO. NEVER. NEVER AGAIN, SONIC.


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE LEAVING OUR BOY BEHIND. I SWORE THAT WE WOULD NEVER...
I DON'T LIKE IT, EITHER.


WE SHOULD PROBABLY LAY LOW FOR NOW. WE WILL NEED TO GET OUT OF THE CITY...
NO, AMADEUS. WE NEED TO END THIS TONIGHT.


WE CAN STILL ENTER THE CASTLE WITH LITTLE RESISTANCE. THEY'LL BE COUNTING ON SONIC TO DO IT ALL HIMSELF.
WE CONFRONT KING ELIAS.
WE HAVE HIM STEP DOWN.
...
WE'LL NEED TO STOP BY THE HOUSE BRIEFLY.

HOLD ON, TAILS.


"AND THANK YOU."
UGH!
GOOD ONE, KID! DO IT AGAIN!

LAST CHANCE, FUR-BALL!
CUT IT OUT!
YOU HAD THIS COMING, YOU JERK!
NOW PUT 'EM UP!
WHICH SHALL IT BE, WRETCH?... THE GREAT HERO DEFEATED BY A PUP, OR THE GREAT HERO WHO BEATS UP CHILDREN?
YOU'RE NOT HELPING! FINE!
YOU WANT A POUNDING? YOU'LL GET A POUNDING!

THE UNTHINKABLE IS UPON US! *SONIC VS. TAILS!* AND WHAT ABOUT THE FATE OF THE KINGDOM? COME BACK IN FOUR WEEKS FOR THE CONCLUSION TO *"HOUSE OF CARDS!"*

LOOK FOR MORE *SONIC* ADVENTURES IN *SONIC X #22* AND *SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUMES 1, 2, 3* AND *4* ON SALE NOW!

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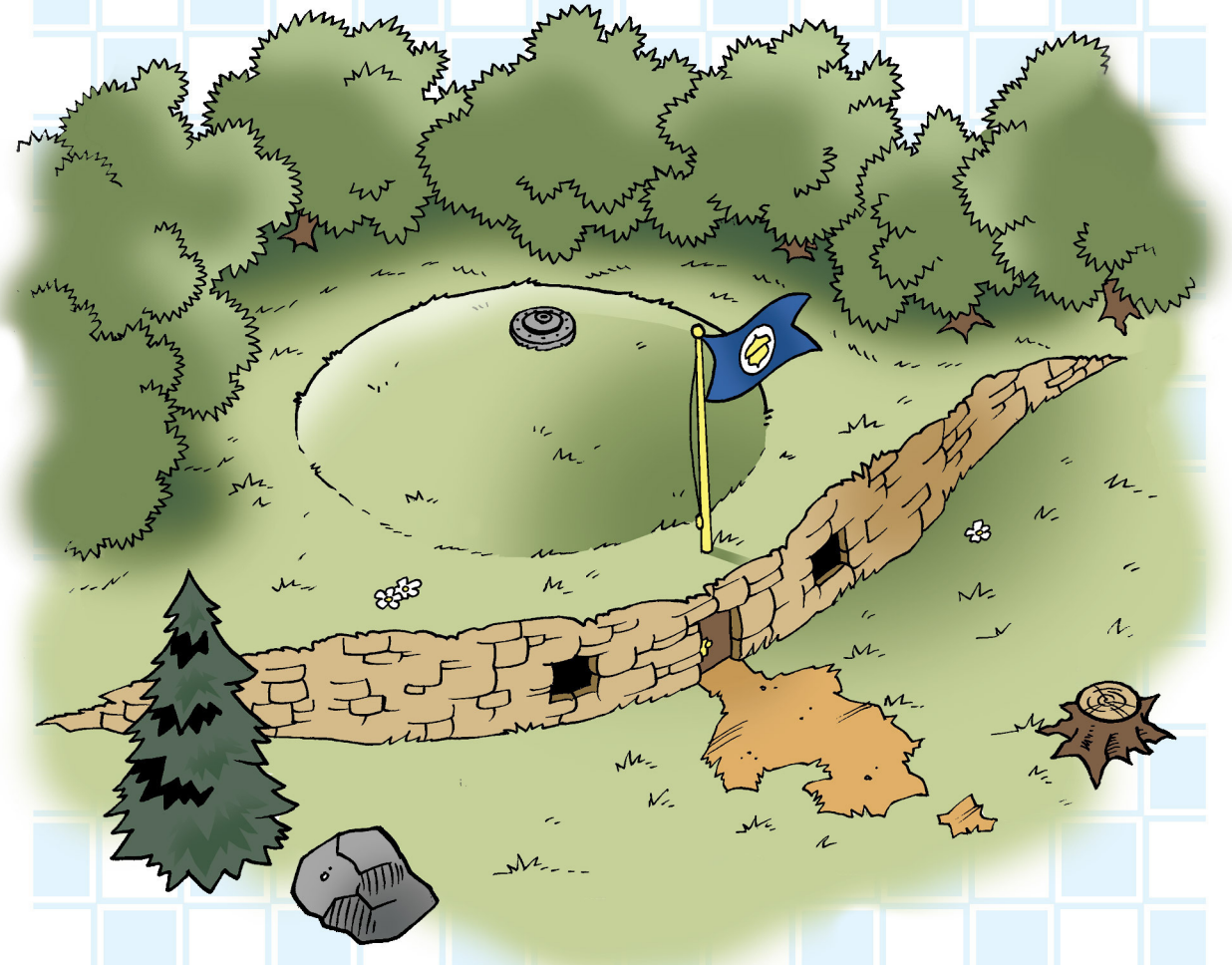
FREEDOM HQ
EXTERIOR VIEW

DATA-FILE:

Freedom HQ is built around the old limestone cavern the Freedom Fighters first gathered in. It's built directly into the rock wall for protection. The domed top houses the solar arrays and provides extra protection.

There are only two ways into the base:
1) The front entrance built into the face of the cliffside.
2) A secret passage leading in from the Great Forest. This speedy way in is called the Great Oak Slide.



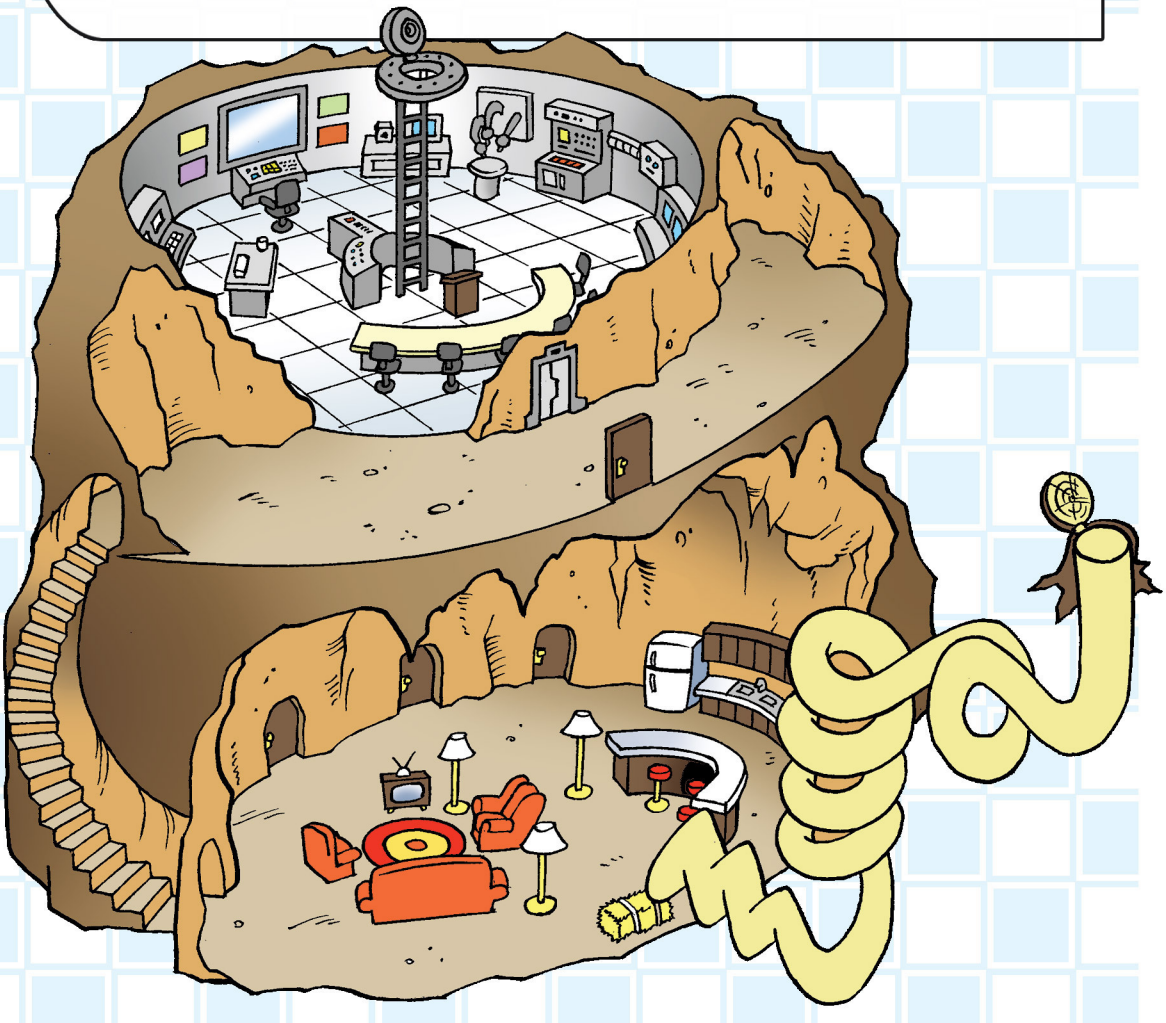
INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Tracy Yardley!
S-849a 11/03/06 U-25

FREEDOM HQ
INTERIOR VIEW

DATA-FILE:

Freedom HQ is both the Freedom Fighters' base and a home away from home. The base is a decoy to draw Dr. Eggman's wrath from New Mobotropolis. The common room has plenty of space for hanging out or recreation. Each hall leads to three specific areas:

1) The Bunks – A coed hall with personal space for each of the Freedom Fighters and Chaotix.
2) The Lab – A high-tech space for science, research and development
3) Kitchen – Perfect place for a victory meal or a late-night snack



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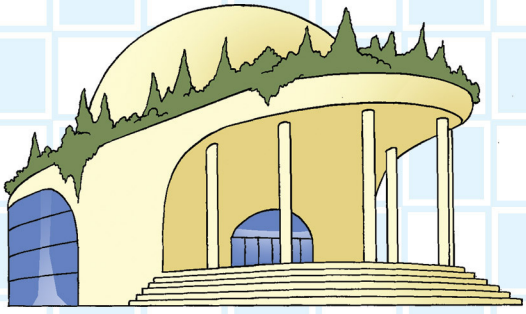
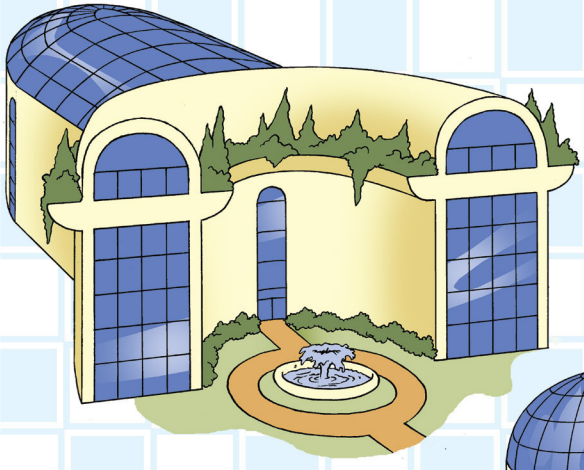
DATA-FILE:

LIBRARY – A center of learning for young and old alike. Nicole managed to recreate almost all of the material lost to the Robotropolis disaster.
The information is both in raw data and in books.

LIBRARY

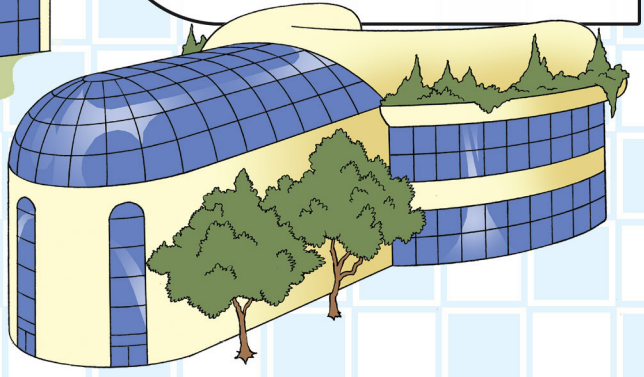


CIVIC CENTER



DATA-FILE:

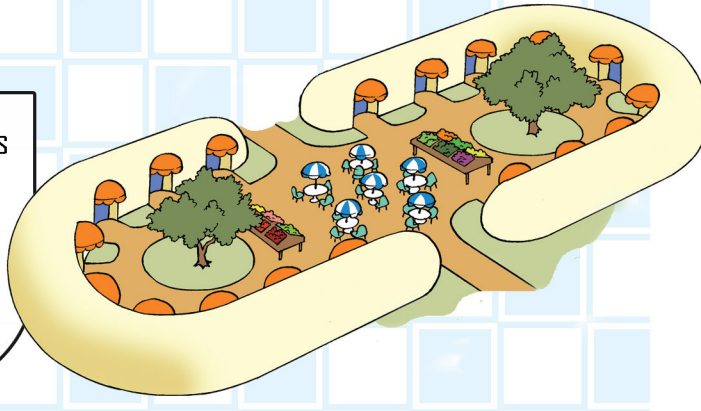
CIVIC CENTER – The social gathering hub for the citizens. Everything from small club meetings to full-city referendums can be held in this beautiful facility.



MARKETPLACE

DATA-FILE:

MARKET – Ever self-sufficient, the Mobians tend to their crops within the city's protective walls and distribute their goods here. Craftsmen are out in force as well as selling clothes, jewelry, and knick-knacks of all kinds.



INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Tracy Yardley!
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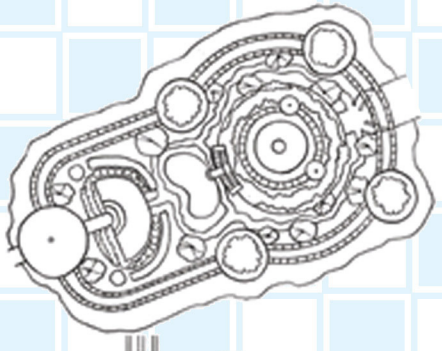
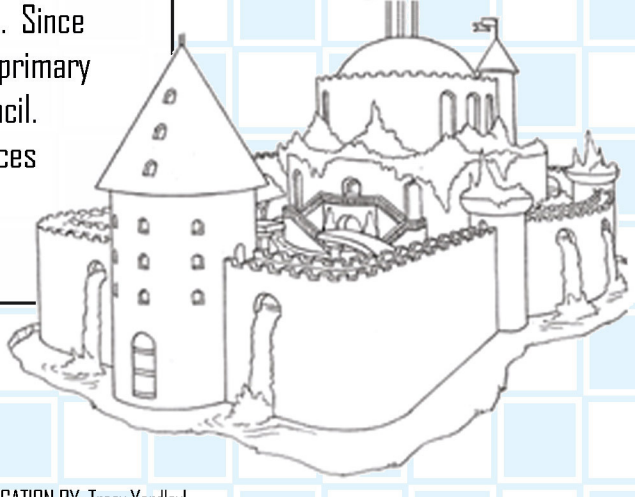
CASTLE ACORN

DATA-FILE:

The seat of the monarchy and the crown jewel of New Mobotropolis. Built in memory of the splendor of Old Mobotropolis, Castle Acorn is home to the royal Acorn family. Since the revolution it also acts as the primary meeting place for the Acorn Council. The counselors all have their offices and optional residences within Castle Acorn.





INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Tracy Yardley!

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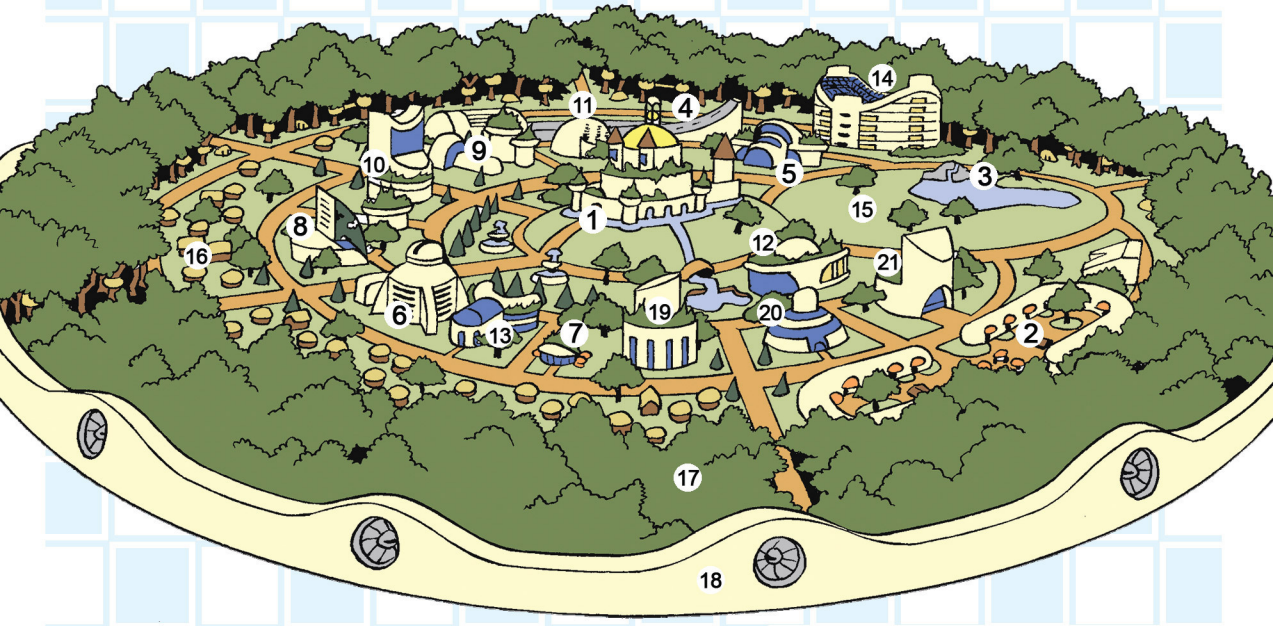
NEW MOBOTROPOLIS



DATA-FILE:

This sparkling city was once a testing ground for Dr. Eggman's nanites. Nicole took control of the nanites and restructured the mess into the glittering home for the Mobians. Almost everything is made of nanites – from the homes to the forest. The surrounding wall generates a powerful force-field that protects it from outside attacks.

Points of interest are:

1) Castle Acorn
2) Market
3) Lake of Rings
4) Frederick Airbase
5) School
6) Science Center
7) Uncle Chuck's Diner
8) Tommy Turtle Memorial Hospital
9) Prison
10) Royal Army HQ
11) Power Plant
12) Library
13) Civic Center
14) Coliseum
15) Julayla Memorial Garden
16) Residential Area
17) Faux Forest
18) Protective Wall
19) Food Storage
20) Theater
21) Temple

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Tracy Yardley!

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Be back next issue when friends collide and the fate of a Kingdom hangs in the balance! Will the rebuilt city crumble from within?! Tails the outlaw must be brought to justice! ***SONIC VS. TAILS!***

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